

American men, we have accepted the call of leadership by fulfilling our traditional responsibility of mentorship. By investing our time, talents, and resources, we instill cultural pride and awareness of self to African American boys under the care of Franklin County Children Services. We do this to strengthen their families and to ensure the survival of future generations.

As concerned African

SIMBA (wachunga), a Swahili term meaning young lions, is an Africentric mentoring and rites of passage program. SIMBA matches African American male youths (ages 5-18) under the care of Franklin County Children Services with responsible African American men from the community for friendship, support, and guidance.



## Volunteer...

Some choose to use the term "volunteer" when discussing the commitment to youths in need with a special one-onone interpersonal relationship. However, "volunteer" implies that one has a choice.

## or Mentor?

African-centered philosophy stresses that it is the duty and responsibility of our community to mentor our children, because it truly takes an entire village to raise a child. Mentors demonstrate their commitment by guiding and teaching boys as they grow into manhood.

The triumph of evil is when good men do nothing

# You can make a difference

# hildren Services

**SIMBA** programs around the country are primarily community-based. However, in 1988, Children Services recognized the unique needs of the African American boys it served, and took a proactive stance to develop and implement this culturally specific mentoring program. Families of boys under Children Services care are experiencing difficulties and these boys may be

lacking positive

male role models.

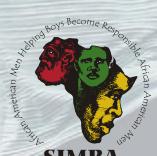
## Requirements |

A **SIMBA** mentor is an African or African American man at least 18 years old who has a valid driver's license and preferably an automobile with liability insurance. Prospects must complete the application and screening process and participate in a brief training session focusing on their roles as **SIMBA** mentors.



## and Expectations

Following training, newly certified **SIMBA** mentors are given the opportunity to specify the age and other characteristics of a child they would prefer to work with. Once matched, **SIMBA** mentors are asked to maintain a consistent relationship with their "mentee" for a minimum of six months.



### DIMIBA

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...in the life of a child.